

DOCKET NO.: IVGP-0005  
Application No.: 09/812,634  
Office Action Dated: May 31, 2006

PATENT  
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR § 1.116



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
**Hiang-Swee Chiang**

Confirmation No.: **1362**

Application No.: **09/812,634**

Group Art Unit: **2135**

Filing Date: **March 20, 2001**

Examiner: **Beemnet W. Dada**

For: **Transparent User and Session Management for Web Applications**

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EV 800285225 US**  
**DATE OF DEPOSIT: November 30, 2006**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRE-APPEAL REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Applicant respectfully requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request. This request is being filed with a Notice of Appeal. The review is requested for the reasons stated on the attached sheets. No more than five pages are provided.

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### REMARKS – REASONS FOR REVIEW

Claims 1-78 are pending in the application, and all of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on a combination of references. Specifically:

- Claims 1, 3-10, 12-20, 22-29, 31-38, 40-49, 51-59, 61-69 and 71-78 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Wood (US Patent No. 6,668,322 B1) in view of Zhao (US Patent 6,035,404).
- Claims 2, 11, 21, 30, 39, 50, 60 and 70 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Zhao and Gupta (US Patent No. 6,226,752).

Applicant respectfully seeks review and reversal of the rejections on the grounds that there is a clear deficiency in the Examiner's *prima facie* case in support of the rejections. To be as concise as possible, the following remarks will focus on applicant's claim 1 and the rejection based on the combined disclosures of Wood and Zhao.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

A method for performing user and session management over a computer network, comprising:  
receiving a first request from a user for an application instance, **the request including a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user for all user requests without further user and session application variables**; and  
transmitting an application instance response to the user based on stored user and session system information.

The examiner has stated that that Wood is "silent on a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user," but contends that Zhao cures this deficiency of Wood. Applicant has argued that the combination of Zhao and Wood is improper because Wood teaches away from the use of a single identifier as recited by claim 1.

The examiner responds to applicant's arguments by stating that Wood teaches the claimed method, including the request including a single identifier for all user requests without further user and session application variables.<sup>1</sup> This assertion is confusing in view of

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<sup>1</sup> See para. 2 on p. 2 of the Final Rejection dated May 31, 2006:

Wood teaches the method, comprising receiving a first request from a user for an application instance (user request for information resources/applications, see columns 4,

the examiner's concession that Wood is "silent" in this respect. Moreover, in the same paragraph, the examiner contends that "it is old and well known in the art to identify both a session and a user by a single identifier." The purported reason for this is that it "has the advantage of allowing flexible control of user logins and session information thereby enhancing security of the system." Then, the examiner cites to Zhao as teaching "a user access system including a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user for all user requests."

Thus far, the rationale supporting the combination of Wood and Zhao is unclear. The examiner has not, we respectfully submit, stated a good reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated, or found it obvious, to modify Wood to include a "single identifier" as recited in claim 1.

Further on in the Final Rejection, the examiner rejects claims 1, 7 and 9, and this time the examiner again states that Wood "is silent on on a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user." Here again, the examiner proposes to combine Wood and Zhao, the rationale being that the combination would thereby *ehance the security of the system*.<sup>2</sup>

But why would the system described by Wood need security enhancements of this kind? Why would the skilled artisan be motivated to make this combination? We respectfully

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lines 60-67 and column 5, lines 1-9), the request including a single identifier for all user requests without further user and session application variables (i.e., a user providing a unique session identifier, that is used for access requests to multiple applications) [column 8, lines 13-15, 45-49, and column 10, lines 30-39, 49-53]. Furthermore, it is old and well known in the art to identify both a session and a user by a single identifier, which has the advantage of allowing flexible control of user logins and session information thereby enhancing security of the system. For example, Zhao teaches a user access system including a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user for all user requests (i.e., see for example, Session ID associated with IUID & Start Time and Time out) [column 5, lines 39-67 and figure 6]

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 3 – 4 of the Final Rejection, in para. 6:

Wood is silent on a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user. However, it is old and well known in the art to identify both a session and a user by a single identifier, which has the advantage of allowing flexible control of user logins and session information thereby enhancing security of the system. For example, Zhao teaches a user access system including a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user for all user requests (i.e., see for example, Session ID associated with IUID & Start Time and Time out) [column 5, lines 39-67 and figure 6]. Both Wood and Zhao teach a method for performing user and session management. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to employ the teachings of Zhao within the system of Wood thereby enhancing the security of the system.

submit that the skilled artisan would have been motivated **against** making such modification to Wood, and here's why: The Final Rejection correlates the "session cookie" of Wood to the "single identifier" of claim 1. However, in col. 8, lines 9-25, Wood describes using two separate identifiers within a session credentials structure to identify the session and the user, namely the "session id" and "principal id" of Wood. Also, Wood describes that there are additional user session and application variables, namely, "a trust level, group ids, a creation time, and expiration time." In Wood, the trust level is associated with the unique principal id and "serves as a basis for evaluating whether a *principal* associated with the session credentials has been authenticated to a sufficient level..." (emphasis added) Col. 8, lines 26-30. If the same id were used for the session and user, then this evaluation of user authentication using the trust level would not be possible because the user would not be able to be differentiated from the session. This is contrary to and teaches away from recitation in claim 1 that "the request including a single identifier used to identify both a session and a user for all user requests without further user and session application variables". For this reason, applicant respectfully asserts that the examiner has not presented a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness, and that in fact there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combined Wood and Zhao as the examiner has proposed.

Furthermore, modifying Wood to include the "single identifier ..." as recited by claim 1 would render Wood unsatisfactory for its intended purpose (which is to identify session/user and authenticate trust level). This shows there is no suggestion to combine Wood and Zhao (see MPEP 2143.01V).

### CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the remarks above are responsive to each point raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and applicant submits that claims 1-78 of the application are in

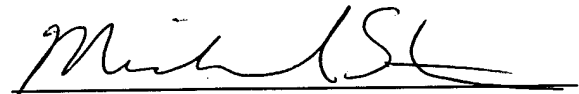
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condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicant's undersigned representative would very much appreciate a telephone conference to discuss these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 30, 2006

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Stein", written over a horizontal line.

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